

Straight University, New Orleans, La.

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STRAIGHT UNIVERSITY, NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Founded in 1869 by American Missionary Association. Named in honor of Hon. Seymour Straight, Hudson, Ohio. The two dormitories occupy the corners of the Square facing Canal Street. Stone Hall (on the right) the gift of Mrs. Valleria G. Stone, Malden, Mass. Whitin Hall (on the left) named in honor of the late John C. Whitin, Whitinsville, Mass. All the school exercises take place in the Central building.

STRAIGHT UNIVERSITY celebrates this year its fortieth anniversary. The first building was erected in 1869 by the United States Government upon land purchased by the American Missionary Association of New York City. This building was destroyed by fire in 1877. The Association proceeded at once to rebuild the university. It now occupies an entire square upon which have been constructed two dormitories, school buildings, industrial building, laundry, etc.

The school was the pioneer institution in this part of the South, in offering the emancipated race the opportunity for education, leavened with the spirit of the Gospel. During all the years its progress has been steady and salutary, keeping pace with the growing intelligence of the people, the course of study being enlarged and broadened as needs warranted the change.

The institution received its name from the late Hon. Seymour Straight, of Hudson, Ohio, in grateful acknowledgment of his liberal gifts and wise counsel. The aim of the school at the beginning was expressed in the charter incorporated under the laws of the state of Louisiana, June 12, 1869, and reasserted

in the renewed charter in 1894. "The purposes and object of the corporation are the education and training upon Christian principles of young men and women, etc." This continues to be the aim of the school. Straight University is under the auspices of the American Missionary Association of New York and receives considerable aid through the Association from the Congregational churches of the United States. Although the school is largely supported by the Congregational Church, like most other schools of its kind it is thoroughly undenominational in character. It is a Christian school open to all who wish to take advantage of the opportunities offered the people. About seven hundred students are enrolled, and a recent census shows that of this number seventy are Congregationalists, two hundred and fifty Catholics, one hundred and fifty Methodists, one hundred Baptists, etc. The doors are open wide to receive boys and girls of any or of no denominational faith. The influence is wholly Christian. All the students and teachers attend chapel exercises twice each day. On Sunday there is a preaching service and a Sunday-school.